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# Webster recommends Hill be informed fully, quickly

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William H. Webster, the president's choice to head the CIA, said yesterday Congress should be promptly notified of future covert activities.

He said his successor as FBI chief should be politically neutral.

Mr. Webster has been named to lead the CIA through the controversy surrounding allegations that the agency sought to circumvent Congress in funneling arms to Iran and aiding the Nicaraguan resistance when U.S. military aid to the Contras was banned.

"It's important that Congress be informed [of CIA covert operations] just as soon and just as fully as possible within the constraints of national security," Mr. Webster said at a White House press conference. "That's a principle I'm sure the president endorses."

Mr. Webster has been praised as a non-partisan administrator and gets high marks for upgrading the FBI during his nine years as director of the law enforcement agency. President Reagan nominated him Tuesday after Robert Gates withdrew because his Senate confirmation appeared unlikely.

Mr. Webster urged the administration to choose as his replacement someone free of "partisan political influence." He said he had made some recommendations to Attorney General Edwin Meese III but refused to discuss them.

U.S. District Judge D. Lowell Jensen, the White House's top choice for

FBI director, is reluctant to leave the federal bench to become the nation's No. 1 crime fighter. White House and Justice Department officials said yesterday.

Judge Jensen, who serves on the San Francisco bench, is Mr. Meese's favored candidate. According to a Justice Department source, Mr. Meese would like Judge Jensen to take the job but does not want to pressure him into resigning as a federal judge, a position he is known to enjoy.

As a result, two Justice Department officials also have emerged as major contenders for the president's choice of FBI director, the sources said.

Of the two, Joseph diGenova, U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, has fewer "liabilities" as a candidate since he was not connected to the Iran-Contra scandal, one Justice Department source said.

Stephen S. Trott, the other leading candidate, is under serious consideration by top White House officials, the sources said, but may run into confirmation trouble with the Senate Judiciary Committee, which must approve candidates for FBI director.

Mr. Trott currently is assistant attorney general of the Justice Department's criminal division.

Last fall, he was directed by Mr. Meese to order a delay in an FBI investigation of a Miami cargo airline implicated in supplying arms to the Nicaraguan rebels. The probe was halted for 26 days at the request of Vice Adm. John Poindexter, who as national security adviser requested the delay to avoid exposing

covert air shipments of U.S. arms to Iran.

Mr. Trott also came under fire for his handling of a 1985 check-kiting scheme involving the E.F. Hutton investment firm. He was accused of being soft on white-collar crime after the firm was allowed to pay heavy fines for illegally manipulating investments. None of the company's executives was criminally indicted.

Mr. diGenova has developed a reputation for being tough on espionage. He directed the prosecution of the Jonathan Pollard Israeli spy case, which ended yesterday with a life sentence for Pollard.

Mr. diGenova, however, is not highly regarded by conservatives, having worked as a staff member for former Sen. Charles McC. Mathias, a liberal Maryland Republican.

One White House official, who declined to be named, said Mr. Meese has taken an active role in the selection process and hopes the president will choose Judge Jensen, or at least a lawyer from outside the FBI.

Judge Jensen worked in the Justice Department's criminal division before becoming deputy attorney general. Previously, he was a county prosecutor in Oakland, Calif., along with Mr. Meese.

In San Francisco, a spokesman for Judge Jensen said the judge has not indicated if he would take the FBI director's job since it hasn't been formally offered.

"He intends to work and continue doing his very best on the bench," the spokesman said.